

QA-564

Governor William Grason Tenant House
Queenstown vicinity, Queen Anne's County

Early-19th century, 1964

Privately owned

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Governor William Grason Tenant House is a 1964 Colonial Revival residence that was constructed around an early-19th century tenant house. The wood-frame and brick house consists of a 2-story, 3-bay, double-pile main block with a 1 ½-story, 2-bay wing on the west, a 1-story kitchen ell on the south, and a 1-story sunroom in the southwest corner. The house faces north onto Governors Way in the Governor Grason Manor subdivision south of Queenstown, Queen Anne's County. A 1964 shed and garage also stand on the site.

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Governor William Grason Tenant House is a 1964 Colonial Revival residence that contains the core of an early-19th century tenant house that was constructed on the farm of Governor William Grason. Grason settled in the Grasonville area ca. 1815. As originally constructed, the tenant house was probably a 2-story, 3-bay, single-pile frame dwelling with either a shed or ell containing the kitchen to the rear. It faced north along the lane leading to Governor Grason's mansion house, which was demolished in the late-20th century. Governor William Grason (1786-1868) was the first popularly elected Governor of Maryland, serving from 1838-1841.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of

Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-564

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Governor William Grason Tenant House

other N/A

2. Location

street and number 140 Governors Way not for publication

city, town Queenstown ☒ vicinity

county Queen Anne's

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Robert A. and Bonnie S. McGregor

street and number 140 Governors Way telephone (410) 827-0942

city, town Queenstown state MD zip code 21658

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Queen Anne's County Circuit Court liber SM 675 folio 366

city, town Centreville tax map 59 tax parcel 156 tax ID number 05-026547

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
 0

7. Description

Inventory No. QA-564

Condition

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Governor William Grason Tenant House is a 1964 Colonial Revival residence that was constructed around an early-19th century tenant house. The wood-frame and brick house consists of a 2-story, 3-bay, double-pile main block with a 1 1/2-story, 2-bay wing on the west, a 1-story kitchen ell on the south, and a 1-story sunroom in the southwest corner. The house faces north onto Governors Way in the Governor Grason Manor subdivision south of Queenstown, Queen Anne's County. A 1964 shed and garage also stand on the site.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Governor William Grason Tenant House is located in the Governor Grason Manor subdivision south of Queenstown in Queen Anne's County. The house faces north onto Governors Way between Bennett Point Road and the Wye River. The flat, 1.13-acre lot features two large sycamore trees.

The Governor William Grason Tenant House is a 1964 Colonial Revival residence that was constructed around an early-19th century tenant house. The house consists of a 2-story, 3-bay, double-pile main block with a 1 1/2-story, 2-bay wing on the west, a 1-story kitchen ell on the south, and a 1-story sunroom in the southwest corner. The Governor William Grason Tenant House has a bricked-over foundation, Flemish bond brick gable ends with false chimneys on the main block and kitchen ell, and beaded wood weatherboard on the other facades. The gable roof is covered in wood shake and has a shallow boxed cornice and vergeboards. The exterior brick chimney in the west gable of the west addition is the only functional chimney. The main entry is located in the center bay of the north elevation and consists of a recent wood stoop and a paneled wood door with a plain surround topped by cresting. There is a secondary entry consisting of a half-glass door with a plain surround on the east wall of the kitchen ell. The windows are 6/9 wood double-hung sash with plain surrounds and wood paneled shutters. There are two gabled dormers on the north slope of the west addition roof and two skylights on the east slope of the kitchen ell roof. The only porch is on the east elevation of the kitchen ell and features a brick foundation and floor, square wood posts with sawn brackets, and a shed roof.

On the interior, the main block contains two rooms. The front room measures 25 feet wide by 12 feet deep. The current owners were told that this was the original extent of the early-19th century tenant house. The wide plank floor in this room is the only visible early material that remains in the house; all other interior finishes date to 1964 or later. The rear room of the main block, the kitchen ell, and the west addition all date to 1964. The sunroom dates to the 1970s.

A 1964 garden shed, constructed to resemble a nineteenth century dairy, stands south of the house. The shed has a poured concrete foundation with flagstone paving, brick walls, and a wood shake hipped roof with deep overhangs supported by square wood posts. A 3-bay garage stands southeast of the house. The garage has a poured concrete foundation, brick veneer on its north wall, wood weatherboard on its other walls, and a asymmetrical gable wood shake roof with an overhang supported by square wood posts.

8. Significance

Inventory No. QA-564

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates early-19th century (original construction), 1964 (remodeling) **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates early-19th century, 1964

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Governor William Grason Tenant House contains the core of an early-19th century tenant house that was constructed on the farm of Governor William Grason. Grason settled in the Grasonville area ca. 1815. As originally constructed, the tenant house was probably a 2-story, 3-bay, single-pile frame dwelling with either a shed or ell containing the kitchen to the rear. It faced north along the lane leading to Governor Grason's house. Governor William Grason (1786-1868) was the first popularly elected Governor of Maryland, serving from 1838-1841.

RESOURCE HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

The Governor William Grason Tenant House contains the core of an early-19th century tenant house that was constructed on the farm of Governor William Grason. As originally constructed, the tenant house was probably a 2-story, 3-bay, single-pile frame dwelling with either a shed or ell containing the kitchen to the rear. It faced north along the lane leading to Governor Grason's mansion house, which was demolished in the late-20th century.

Governor William Grason (1786-1868), for whom the community of Grasonville was named, was the first popularly elected Governor in Maryland, serving from 1838 to 1841. Grason was born in 1786 in Queen Anne's County at Eagle's Nest on the Wye River.¹ He attended St. John's College in Annapolis and served in the U.S. Navy. In 1812, he married Dorchester County native Susan Orrick Sulivane. The couple lived with her parents for several years before returning to Queen Anne's County ca. 1815. Grason became a successful gentleman farmer and local politician. He served in the Maryland General Assembly as a Democrat from 1828 until 1838, when he became the first popularly elected Governor of Maryland.² Grason returned to his farm in Queen Anne's County in 1842. Upon his death in 1868, he directed that his property be sold to pay his debts and provide annuities to his two unmarried daughters.

James Spear of Kent County bought Grason's 224-acre farm in 1868 and left it to his daughter Helen S. Dudley, wife of Dr. Charles Dudley. The property remained in the Dudley family until 1935 when it was bought by Henry and Wanda Dusenbury, a wealthy society couple from New York and New Jersey who intended to use it as a country estate. A 1935 paper on the history of Grasonville reported: "like many other distinctive and historic tracts of land in Queen Anne's County and other parts of the Eastern Shore, it has passed into the hands of strangers with a liking for the free and easy Shore life."³ The widowed Wanda Dusenbury sold the Governor William Grason farm in 1943. The property passed through several hands and was subdivided in the 1970s. Governor Grason's house was demolished for construction of a new house, but the tenant house, heavily remodeled in the 1960s and 1970s, remained.

¹ The location of Eagle's Nest is unknown.

² Previous Governors had been elected by the General Assembly.

³ Bishop, Catherine A. Grasonville. ca. 1935.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. QA-564

Bishop, Catherine A. Grasonville. Unpublished paper, ca. 1935. Enoch Pratt Free Library Vertical Files under "Grasonville."
Queen Anne's County Circuit Court. Land Records. ww2.mdlandrec.net.
Wroten, Dr. William H., Jr. William Grason, Governor. *Salisbury Times*. April 26, 1962. www.nabbhistory.salisbury.edu.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	<u>1.13 acres</u>	
Acreage of historical setting	<u>224 acres</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>Queenstown</u>	Quadrangle scale: <u>1:24,000</u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary for the Governor William Grason Tenant House corresponds to the boundary for Queen Anne's County Tax Map 59, Parcel 156. The boundary encompasses 1.13 acres and includes the house, garage, and shed. The 1.13-acre parcel is the only land that is still associated with the house.

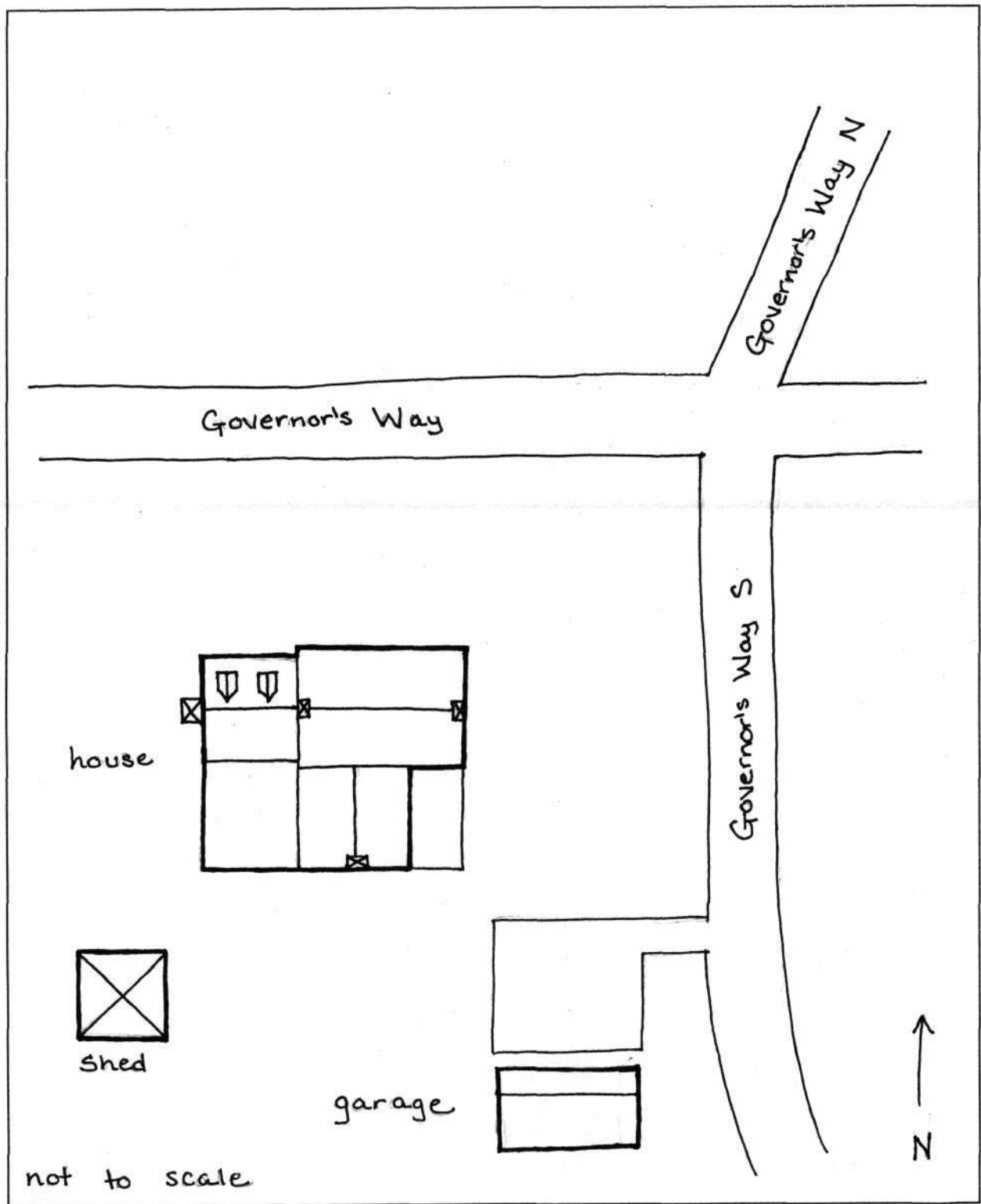
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Julie Darsie		
organization	Betty Bird & Associates LLC	date	October 2005
street & number	2607 24 th Street, NW, Suite 3	telephone	(202) 588-9033
city or town	Washington, District of Columbia	state	N/A

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

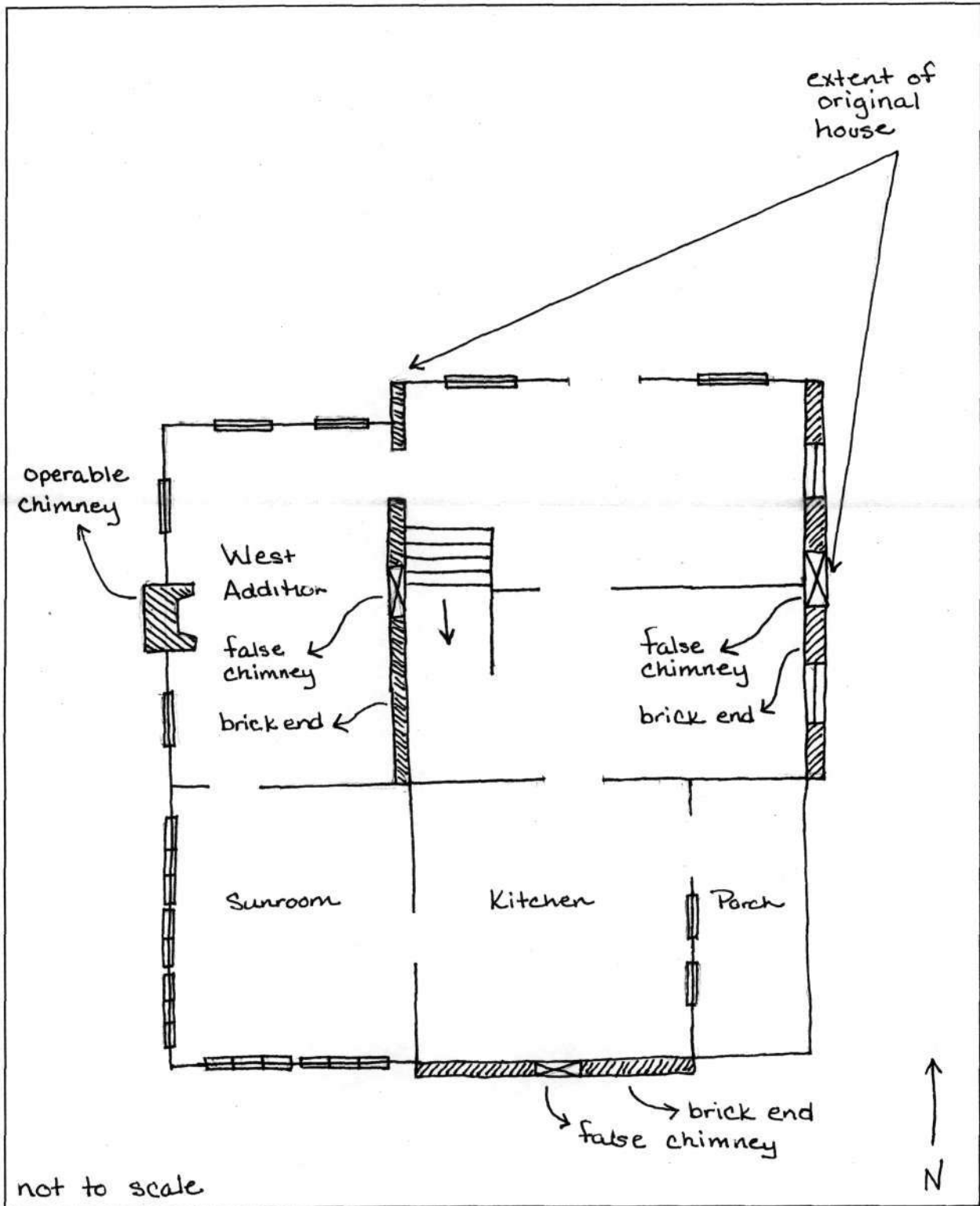


Site Plan

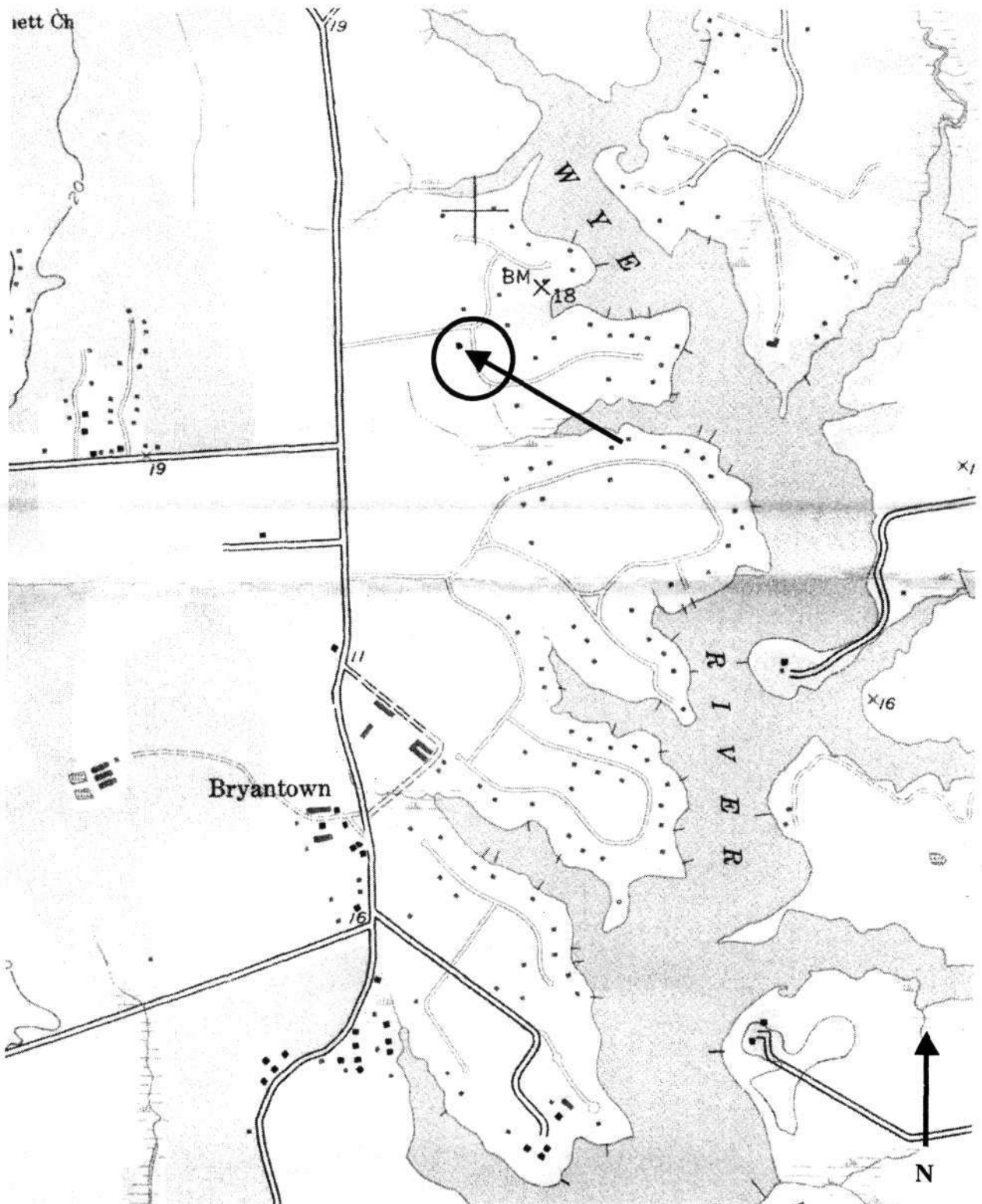
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Governor William Grason Tenant House

Queenstown Vicinity, Queen Anne's County, Maryland



Floor Plan
QA-564
Governor William Grason Tenant House
 Queenstown Vicinity, Queen Anne's County, Maryland



QA-564
Governor William Grason Tenant House
Queenstown vicinity, Queen Anne's County
Queenstown, Maryland Quadrangle (1:24,000)



QA - 564

Governor William Crason Tenant House
Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Parsie for Betty Bird & Associates

9/05

MD SHPO

North elevation showing main block on left, West addition
on right.

1 of 7



QA - Slot

Governor William Grason Tenant House

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

9/05

MD SHPO

East elevation showing kitchen ell on left, main block on right.

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QA-564

Governor William Crasor Tenant House
Queen Anns County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

9/05

MD SHPO

South elevation showing sunroom on left, kitchen ell
on right.

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QA - 564

Governor William Grason Tenant House

Queen Annel's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

9/105

MD SHPO

West elevation (showing) west addition on left, sunroom on right

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QA-564

Governor William Crason Tenant House

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

9105

MD SHPO

Interior of Main Block front room, view to NW

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QA-564

Governor William Grason Tenant House

Queen Annel's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

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MD SHPO

Shed from SE

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Governor William Grason Tenant House

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Dancie for Betty Bird & Associates

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MD SHPO

Garage from NW

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